

**Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight  
State Planning and Establishment Grants for the**

**Affordable Care Act's Exchanges  
Quarterly Report**

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April 13, 2011  
Connecticut  
Insurance Exchange Planning Grant  
Quarter 2: 1/1/11-3/31/11

**Grant Contact Information**

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Award Number: 1 HBEIE100047-01-00

Date Submitted: 4/13/11

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**PROJECT SUMMARY**

Core Area: Background Research

The State received six (6) proposal submissions in response to the RFP by the March 1, 2011 deadline. A review team was established that was made up of individuals representing the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), Department of Social Services, Department of Insurance and the University of Connecticut Health Center. The review team scored the proposals on March 31, 2011 and a summary of the rating criteria and vendor recommendation was approved by the Secretary of OPM on April 6, 2011. The vendor contract is currently being processed and vendor notification/negotiations are anticipated to start this week. It is anticipated that the selected vendor will start work May 1, 2011.

Core Area: Stakeholder Consultation and Involvement

The third grant planning committee meeting was held in February and included updates and discussions on exchange legislation status, RFP, and stakeholder engagement plans. The committee was given the Public Engagement plan for review and discussion.

The Public Engagement plan for Connecticut consists of 5 public forums to be held throughout the State in late April and early May. The format of the forums is a presentation by grant staff of insurance exchange basics via a power point presentation and an hour and a half of public testimony. The meetings will be recorded and transcribed. A one page educational piece (available in English and Spanish) and survey will be distributed at each meeting.

Along with the public forums, we have scheduled nine (9) stakeholder coalition meetings to be held in Hartford, CT. We have grouped the attendees by professional category. This information is attached for your reference. Each stakeholder group contact was sent a questionnaire in late March that includes pertinent exchange topics. They were asked to disseminate this questionnaire to the appropriate individuals

and to provide the State their comments two weeks prior to their meeting. The objective is to structure these meetings with a framework specific to each professional group category so to ensure productive discussion. Each meeting will be facilitated by a professional facilitator well versed in exchange development/health care policy and planning. The stakeholder meetings begin the week of May 2, 2011.

Materials developed for the public engagement outreach efforts include the following and are attached for your reference:

- Public Engagement Strategy
- Stakeholder Topic Questions
- Public Forum power point presentation
- Public Forum leave behind (English and Spanish)
- Public Forum survey
- Public Forum press release
- Stakeholder meetings to date (professional group attendees)

All stakeholder materials above will be posted to our exchange website: [www.ct.gov/opm/exchangegrant](http://www.ct.gov/opm/exchangegrant).

#### Core Area: Program Integration

The Principal Investigator has held preliminary meetings with other key agencies to begin the process of forming an interagency work group for exchange implementation planning. This group will serve to guide processes for implementation work.

The New England States Collaborative submission for an Early Innovator Grant was one of seven awarded in February. The primary goal of this initiative is to design and develop the IT infrastructure needed to operate health insurance exchanges. The New England States Cooperative includes: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut. The team from Connecticut consists of two representatives from the Department of Social Services and the Exchange Planning Grant Project Manager through OPM. This team has attended one regional meeting and numerous conference calls since the award announcement to begin work on deliverables.

#### Core Area: Resources and Capabilities

An analyst was hired on January 28, 2011 and a part time administrative support position was filled on March 25, 2011. OPM staff continue to support all exchange planning grant initiatives.

#### Core Area: Governance

Three bills have been introduced during Connecticut's current legislative session that would authorize the development of a Health Insurance Exchange authority. One bill was introduced by OPM on behalf of Governor Malloy's Administration, one bill was introduced by the Speaker of the House and the third bill was introduced by the President of the Senate.

All three bills would create a quasi-State entity as the Exchange authority. All three bills are similar in many respects but there are a handful of significant policy differences between the bills that will have to be negotiated. While there are differences between the bills, the Administration, House and Senate are all in agreement that Exchange legislation must pass this legislative session so that Connecticut can have the governance structure in place in order to start developing the Exchange.

Connecticut's legislative session is scheduled to end on June 8, 2011 and we are optimistic we will have legislation passed prior to that date.

#### Core Area: Regulatory or Policy Actions

Nothing to report at this time.

Connecticut has nothing to report this quarter in the Core Areas of: Finance, Technical Infrastructure and Business Operations.

#### **Barriers, Lessons learned and Program Recommendations**

Nothing new to report at this time.

#### **Technical Assistance**

The webinars and conference calls, as well as strong support from our Project Officer, continue to be beneficial in this process. We look forward to having a "shared information portal" available as we begin establishment grant planning.

#### **Draft Exchange Budget**

Connecticut remains in the preliminary stages of implementation planning. This is one of the deliverables identified in the RFP and work will commence on financial modeling in May.

#### **Work Plan**

##### Background Research

Milestone 1: RFP Vendor Selection

Timing: March 31, 2011

Description: Review team vendor selection approved. Commencing contract negotiations.

##### Stakeholder Involvement

Milestone 1: Public Engagement Strategy developed and approved

Timing: March, 2011

Description: Outreach strategy approved internally and through planning committee.

Milestone 2: Public Hearing Materials developed

Timing: March, 2011

Description: Power point presentation, educational piece, survey, press release, legislator announcement

Milestone 3: Stakeholder Meetings Scheduled

Timing: March, 2011

Description: Nine professional groups scheduled for comprehensive exchange topic discussions

##### Program Integration

Milestone 1: Award of Early Innovator Grant

Timing: February, 2011

Description: As a part of the New England States Cooperative, Connecticut is one of seven states participating in this award. Project manager is acting as business lead for Connecticut.

Milestone 2: Implementation work group

Timing: March 2011

Description: Internal meetings with agencies to establish exchange implementation work groups.

#### Resources and Capabilities

Milestone 1: Hired office support

Timing: March, 2011

Description: Part time administrative grant support.

Milestone 2: Hired stakeholder facilitator

Timing: March 2011

Description: Stakeholder meetings will be facilitated by consultant to ensure the State's neutrality in the feedback process. Consultant will provide guidance and framework for meetings to meet the State's goals of comprehensively integrating stakeholder comments into Exchange development.

#### Governance:

Milestone 1: Introduction of legislation to authorize the Exchange governance structure

Timing: February/March 2011

Description: Three bills have been introduced during CT's current legislative session to authorize the development on an Exchange and create the governance structure.

#### **Collaborations/Partnerships**

The grant staff continue to collaborate with internal and external stakeholders as the exchange planning processes move forward. Connecticut is organizing work groups to support vendor deliverables as that work begins in May. In addition, Connecticut continues work with the New England States Cooperative on the Early Innovator initiative.

## **COLLABORATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**